Scrutiny of Companies under MRTP Act

636. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the companies which are under scrutiny at present under sections 36(A), 36(B) and 36(D) of the M.R.T.P. Act; and

(b) what are the issues against these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Under section 36B of the MRTP Act, 1969, the MRTP Commission inquires into any unfair trade practice as defined in Section 36A of the MRTP Act, 1969 and depending on the circumstances and evidence produced before the Commission, the Commission passes necessary orders under section 36D of the Act. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to all forms of business enterprises including Joint Stock Companies, Partnership firms, associations and individuals. A total of 658 enquiries were being conducted by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission as on 30-3-1990. The time and effort involved in the compilation of details of these cases will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

Newsitem captioned 'Quattorchi's Clout and Nation's Loss'

637. SHRI A. G. GULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'the Indian Express' dated 21st March, 1990, captioned "Quattrochi's Clout and the Nation's Loss' for assigning the study for the utilisation of Tripura gas to an Italian firm M|s Snamprogetti;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what were the compelling reasons for showing favour to "Snamprogetti" in this deal; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been made into the matter if so, what action has been taken by Government on the basis of the inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) GAIL had invited offers from various companies of international repute for undertaking a study for utilisation of Tripura gas by transporting it to Eastern India. Offers were received from 5 companies in June, 1988. Subsequently, M|s. Snamprogetti had indicated their interest in participating in the study and offered to do so without any cost to GAIL except for local expenses within India of their consultants. It was also indicated that the cost of the study would be covered by a grant from the Italian Government. As the offer was found technically acceptable and lowest in cost after taking into account the likely grant, GAIL agreed to assign the study to M|s. Snamprogetti on the condition that it would be at no cost except for local expenses. GAIL had approached the Government to make a request to the Italian Govt. for the grant for making the study. Accordingly, this was taken up with Italian authorities. However, as necessary approval had not been received by Snamprogetti from Italian Government, GAIL proposed not to persue this matter with the Italian Government, and has now proposed to assign the study to British Gas who have offered to do it on similar terms is offered by Snamprogatti. This proposal is being examined by the Government.

The study proposed by GAIL is only for examining the feasibility of transportation of gas from Tripura. The necessity